

Application No. 10/620,686
Reply to Office Action of May-22-2008

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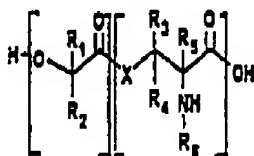
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Amendments to the Claims:

1. to 70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently amended) An immunogenic composition comprising a particulate carrier for delivery of an immunogen to a host, said immunogen being chemically bound to said particulate carrier and a physiologically acceptable carrier for said particulate carrier, said particulate carrier comprising a polymer having a molecular weight of about 5000 to about 40,000 daltons and having the general formula:



wherein:

~~R₄, R₂ and R₄~~ R₁, R₂ and R₅ are selected independently and are selected from H
and from H₁₇ linear or branched alkyl groups;

R_3 and R_4 are H;

R₆ is said immunogen;

X is selected from an O or S group; and

x and y are integers.

72. to 75. (Cancelled)

76. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 71 wherein said particulate carrier has a particle size of about 1 to 10 μm .

77. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 71, wherein said polymer is formed by copolymerization of monomers comprising at least one α -hydroxy acid and at least one ~~pseudo~~- α -amino acid.

78. (Original) The composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one α -hydroxy acid has the formula of $R_1R_2COHCO_2H$, wherein the R_1 and R_2 groups are H, linear or

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branched alkyl units, the alkyl unit being represented by the formula C_nH_{2n+1} , where n = integer of about 1 to 10.

79. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 78, wherein said α -hydroxy acids comprise a mixture of α -hydroxy acids, one of said mixture of α -hydroxy acids having R_1 and R_2 groups which are hydrogen and the other of said mixture of α -hydroxy acids having an R_1 group which is CH_3 and R_2 group which is H.

80. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one ~~pseudo~~- α -hydroxy acid has the formula $R_5CHNHR_6CO_2H$, wherein the R_5 group is a methyl hydroxyl or methyl thiol group and R_6 is an amine protecting group.

81. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 80, wherein the amine protecting group is selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy (CBZ or Z), benzyl (Bn), paramethoxybenzyl (MeOBn), benzyloxymethoxy (BOM), tert-butyloxycarbonyl (t-BOC) and [9-fluorenylmethyl oxy]carbonyl (FMOC).

82. (Original) The composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one α -hydroxy acid is selected from the group consisting of L-lactic acid, D,L-lactic acid, glycolic acid, hydroxy valeric acid and hydroxybutyric acid.

83. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 77, wherein the at least one ~~pseudo~~- α -amino acid is formed from serine.

84. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 71, wherein said at least one α -hydroxy acid monomer and at least one ~~pseudo~~- α -amino acid monomer are selected to result in poly-D,L-lactide-co-glycolide-co-pseudo-Z-serine ester (PLGpZS).

85. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 71, wherein said at least one α -hydroxy acid monomer and at least one ~~pseudo~~- α -amino acid monomer are selected to result in poly-D,L-lactide-co-glycolide-co-pseudo-serine ester (PLGpS).

86. (Cancelled).